MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : In the face of the answer given in part (*e*), may I know the number of *thodus*, *chiras* and tanks that were improved by the Minor Irrigation Department since it came into existence?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : A few *chiras*, and repairing of flood damages works were taken up and completed. That is not a complete list. But they are some of the works that have been attended to. It is therefore that I say that we are attending to the work.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the work of any one *chira* has been taken up and completed after the Minor Irrigation Department has come into existence?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the name of that *chira*?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Parandothukonathu *chira*, Kulankorathu *chira*, etc.,

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : But the department has not done anything in the Nedumangad taluk.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : We have carried out the repairs of two.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : In what *pakuthies*, please?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : In Nedumangad taluk.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : In what *pakuthi*?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads Buildings and Irrigation*) : I do not know the name of the *pakuthi*.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : May I know whether the Government are considering the question of revising the Minor Irrigation Rules?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes.

Flood damages in Nedumangad taluk.

216. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that there are several cases of flood damages caused in the floods of 1108 M. E., which are left unattended to even to-day (17-2-1111) either by the P. W. D. or by the Minor Irrigation Department, in the Karakulam, Nellanadu and Manikal *pakuthies* in the Nedumangad taluk;

(*b*) whether they are aware of the serious damage caused to about 200 *paras* of paddy-fields in Maruthoor *ela* just on the western side of Maruthoor *pulam* near the 7th mile-stone on the M. C. Road, Karakulam *pakuthi*, by the floods of 1108 M. E ;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, what action was taken to repair the damage caused to the fields in Maruthoor *ela* ever since 1108 M. E. ;

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[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that the paddy-fields there are even now (17-2-1111) left uncultivated; and

(*e*) whether they are aware that the Revenue Department realises the Sirkar tax for the above paddy-fields even after 1108 M. E.?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) No. A few cases of damage in Manikal and Nellanadu *pakuthies*, which were brought to notice, have been repaired.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) An estimate for the work is under scrutiny by the Division Officer, Irrigation Division.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether any allotment has been made in this year's budget for the improvement of Maruthoor *ela* for damages?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Estimates are sent to Government; and when Government sanction them, money can be allotted out of the Minor Irrigation Fund.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumagad*): My question is whether any allotment has been made in this year's budget.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): The honourable member will understand when I say that there is a Minor Irrigation Fund and money is allotted from that Fund on requisition by the department when the estimate has been sanctioned.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from Government whether they are aware that in this year's budget there is an allotment for the purpose?

PRESIDENT: The Government member has answered it in a language which is quite understandable. He says that there is a Fund for the purpose of executing minor irrigation works and when the estimates come up before Government and when sanctioned they are automatically met out of that Fund. There is a lump allotment.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from Government why the work is delayed so long since the people owning those paddy fields have paid their tax and they are left uncultivated since 1108? May I know why the work is delayed unnecessarily?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is not delayed unnecessarily.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the tax that has been wantonly realised from the people would be refunded to them?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have no information that Government realised the tax want only.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Government admit that they were collecting tax from the people on those paddy fields when they were uncultivated. So I put the question whether Government would see their way to return to the people the tax that has been realised from them.

PRESIDENT: Don't you think that that question is a suggestion for future action?

Out-break of Malaria.

217. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have ordered an investigation being conducted with regard to the causes for the existence of malaria in an epidemic and endemic form in the eastern *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara taluks;

(*b*) whether they are aware that there are large areas of wet lands inside the reserves that lie in and near the malarial areas in the above taluks; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that those wet lands are the perennial sources for the breeding, growth and spread of mosquitoes that give rise to malaria?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): (*a*) Certain investigations were conducted in the taluks of Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara when the malaria epidemic was prevailing.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No. It has been established that malaria does not occur inside the forests and that a place becomes malarial only when the tree growth is cut and the land is opened up for cultivation.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): With reference to answer to part (*b*), may I know the extent of swampy areas in the Nedumangad taluk?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the extent of swampy areas in the Kottarakara taluk?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): An actual survey has not been taken by the Public Health Department.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the extent of swampy or wet lands in the Neyyattinkara taluk?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): There is no information, Sir.,

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In the face of the answers that have been given to my supplementary question, may I know how they were able to give the answer "No" to part (*b*) of my question? My question is whether they are aware that there are large areas of wet lands inside the reserves that lie in and near the malarial areas in the Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara taluks. The answer is to the effect that there are not sufficient areas covering wet lands

PRESIDENT: The answer "No" does not mean that there are no wet lands in those places. The question is whether they are *aware*, and the answer is 'No.'

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